

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 29 (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) A process for developing exposed printing plate precursors, comprising:
contacting a printing plate precursor with a developer composition, said developer composition as defined in claim 23 comprising an alkaline developer component selected from alkali silicates, alkali hydroxides, Na_3PO_4 , K_3PO_4 , NR_4OH , wherein each R is independently selected from C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups and C_1 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl groups, and mixtures thereof in the water and having a pH of greater than 13 and up to 14, and
further comprising a stabilizer comprising M_2CO_3 , wherein each M is independently selected from Li, Na, K and NR'_4 and each R' independently represents H or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, wherein the amount of the stabilizer is such that the amount of the carbonate anion is 1.5 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the developer composition.
31. (previously presented) The process of 30 wherein the image-wise exposed printing plate precursor is not developable with an aqueous developer having a pH of below 12.
32. (previously presented) The process of claim 30 wherein the printing plate precursor is a UV-sensitive positive working printing plate precursor or a heat-sensitive printing plate precursor.
33. (previously presented) The process of claim 32 wherein the heat-sensitive coating of the printing plate precursor comprises a phenolic resin.
34. (cancelled)

35. (new) The process of claim 30 wherein the stabilizer is Na_2CO_3 .
36. (new) The process of claim 30 wherein the developer composition has an amount of carbonate anion of 2.5 to 12 wt-%.
37. (new) The process of claim 30 wherein the alkaline developer component comprises an alkali silicate.
38. (new) The process of claim 30 wherein the developer composition additionally comprising one or more additives selected from glycerin, glycols, surfactants, anti-foaming agents, biocides, complexing agents and organic solvents.
39. (new) The process of claim 30 wherein the developer composition has an amount of carbonate anion of 1.5 to 20 wt-%.
- 40 (new) The process of claim 30 wherein said developer composition is also used as its replenisher.